

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

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EDITOR.

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FAILURE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

If we understand the Star aright its plan to make county government economical is to practically abolish the Territorial government; at least to reduce its organization to a skeleton. The Star thinks two systems of government for doing nearly the same work are absurd and they are. We have often said so. But why should the system that can do the work for the least money be put out of the way to make more room for the system which costs the taxpayers the most money? If we are to have economy, why seek it by the extravagant route when an economical one is at hand? Why prefer counties to the Territory—the many governments to the one?

To the Star's concrete proposition to turn over the work of the Territorial departments to the counties by act of Legislature, it is enough to say that the Territorial system rests primarily upon an act of Congress; and that Congress is far from likely to suspend the vital Territorial functions to try the experiment of a loose confederacy of counties, something unknown in the American polity. Besides, what power is a county likely to get from anywhere to deal, through its public attorney, with the legal questions of the Territory as a whole—questions affecting bonded loans, lands, militia, and the like? Congress will not mix things up that way; and the legislature cannot do it. Established on the Territorial basis, the Territory is likely, in all essential features, to remain as such. If it is undesirable to have two sets of government, as the Star now says, it will be the easiest plan to abolish counties. They are doing the mischief, just as the Advertiser predicted they would. It is the additional county system, not the original Territorial system, which is costing the people an extra \$250,000 per annum.

The Star, by way of bracing up a weak case, contends that there has been a "compensating advantage" for the outlay. It mentions street improvements. Anybody who sees the groups of "citizens" dawdling on roads and streets between elections, killing time and giving us the most costly and least durable highway system in the world, will hesitate to be convinced that the change has been for the better. It has cost more, certainly; but the people are quite ready to accept less of the alleged county road improvement for the sake of saving the enormous extra sums now corkscrewed out of them in taxes and largely wasted on political payrolls.

CANADA AND ANNEXATION.

The Kansas City Journal quotes information to the effect that Canada is in a state of serious unrest and easily reaches the postulate that the state of public feeling there means an ultimate union with this country. The reasons given, however, are not impressive. "Most of the trouble," says the Journal, "arises from trade restrictions, particularly those which prevent the expansion of Canadian commerce with the United States. Under the present conditions Canada is deprived to a large extent of her best customer, and her great natural resources are driven to seek a farther and less profitable market. The Canadian people, especially the original French population, are very thrifty, even more canny than the Scotch in keeping an eye open to the main chance, and it is not likely that they will continue many years longer to allow the far-stretched sentiment of loyalty to the English crown to keep them from enjoying greater freedom of commercial intercourse with the United States, with its increased opportunities of achieving wealth and prosperity. Many of the most popular and influential politicians are committed to the idea of Canadian independence, and some of them regard this as the initial step towards inevitable annexation to the United States."

This statement of the case proceeds from the view that the preferential tariff which Great Britain gained from Canada was in some way forced upon the Dominion by the mother country. As a matter of fact Canada made the tariff and can repeal it at any time. Relief from it is not a matter of annexation but of local Canadian politics.

Says the Journal further: "Another form of this unrest has arisen in the Western provinces of Canada, which have been largely settled by farmers from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and even as far south as Missouri and Kansas. For several years railroad land agents and promoters of other Canadian interests have been flooding the mails with specious and tempting offers to Western farmers to settle in Western Canada, and many thousands of restless, adventurous spirits have responded to their advertisements, until now the western part of Canada is pretty well settled with a hardy class of Americans. Naturally there is no great amount of sympathy between these settlers and the English and French Canadians farther east. They are divided also by a wide stretch of comparatively unsettled country between the eastern provinces and those just occupied by the Americans. The latter, moreover, have not lost their love of the Stars and Stripes. On the contrary, it has probably been intensified, as usually happens in cases of exile. Then, too, the trade interests of Western Canada are closer to the United States than to the eastern provinces, and since the extension of the Hill railway system into the Manitoba region that country has begun to ship its wheat to Duluth instead of using the Canadian Pacific to Port William, and New York and Boston have become its Atlantic seaports instead of Montreal, Quebec and St. John."

"This falling off in business is said to be causing serious apprehension, mixed with some racial resentment, in the eastern provinces, and members of the Canadian government are said to fear that the western provinces will secede from the confederacy should repressive policies be adopted to check the change in trade relations. Some of them go so far as to say that the differences between the eastern and western provinces are fast growing as bitter and irreconcilable as those between the North and South in the days preceding the civil war. At all events, there is a fair prospect that sooner or later Canada, or part of it, will apply for admission into the American Union."

The American settlers in Canada, many of whom are of immediate European extraction, have taken the oath to Great Britain and as British subjects are free to ship their crops by the cheapest routes. To assume that Canada would ever coerce them on that account, is to believe that the absurdities of George III. are possible of repetition now in one of the most enlightened and liberal parts of the British empire.

Viewed fairly, Canada's restlessness, if it exists, has no bearing whatever upon annexation. If the issues were what the Kansas City Journal believes them to be, the more popular Canadian remedy would be independence.

THE PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BOOKS.

Those who recall the fight made by the Advertiser some years ago against the continuance of the contract of the book trust, the American Book company, with the Hawaiian school department, will be interested to learn what San Francisco is doing in the same line. The Call of July 21, says:

The Civic League will undertake to reform the system of supplying text books for the public schools. Resolutions have been drawn up to be presented to the Board of Education. An endeavor will be made to take the school book trade from the American Book Company, which firm, it is alleged, has been charging 50 per cent. too much for its books. The resolutions state that the California Federation of Women's Clubs will petition the Legislature to appropriate a fund sufficient to purchase school books for all pupils in public schools in California.

The result of the Advertiser's fight here was, temporarily at least, to open the public's trade in school books to the advantages of competitive bidding. Gradually, however, and without publicity, the book trust got Hawaii's business back and it holds it now, though without contract. Supt. Babbitt is dissatisfied with the arrangement and will, as soon as possible, put book-buying on a more business-like basis. As educational funds are now the purchase of books at non-competitive trust prices is of special as well as general disadvantage.

After playing on the sympathies of his friends for a couple of years and then failing to get any show for the Republican nomination for Congress, Alex Robertson now cancels his story that Kuhio promised to withdraw in his behalf and intimates that this paper made it from whole cloth. Mr. Robertson knows that the story was his own and that his most intimate friends have been using it in his behalf ever since Kuhio announced his candidacy. That it made no impression on the public is naturally humiliating to Robertson and he would like to get out from under it. Hence the cheap-skate subterfuge about the Advertiser.

Honoluluans would appreciate a chance to parade Fort street some sunny afternoon and have their pictures taken for the biograph.

The police are beginning to raid the Iwilei district. That ought to give the campaign fund a spurt.

PRETTY BOOTHS FOR THE CHINESE FAIR

A good deal of interest is being taken in the Chinese Fair that it is proposed to give for the benefit of St. Peter's Episcopal congregation in the early days of September. It is the purpose to make these fairs or entertainments of similar kind, annual, and to have them instructive and always eminently Chinese. This year the pretty little Chinese booths used at the Fair last year at the residence of W. M. Graham will be put up in the Iolani College grounds, and most elaborately decorated. Those who remember the booths will want to see them again. This year, also, there will be a Chinese bride and groom, in the real bridal dress, as well as other features that will be well worth seeing.

ROBERTSON JOLTS FRIENDS

(Continued from Page 1.)
for the House of Representatives. I see no reason why I should leave the Civic Federation to do this. I am a Republican, and shall make the fight on Republican lines. And I am in it to stay."

The principles that Mr. Hughes relies upon will be found in another place, over his own signature. His stand is square and manly, and his declaration one that need not make him ashamed to ask the suffrage of any good citizen. John Hughes is the kind of man that is needed in the Legislature, the kind that will probably be especially needed in the Legislature that is to be elected this fall. There is a lot of important work coming before that body, and level-headed men of the highest class will be wanted to deal with the problems presented.

There is not now, from the indications presenting themselves from the outer districts, the brightest possible prospect for the right class of men getting into the legislative body. The withdrawal of Palmer Woods will mark a distinct loss. He was slated for the Fusion nomination for the Senate from Hawaii, and would almost certainly have been elected. His influence was for wise restraint. What the opposition can do when it is not restrained was shown in the election of the first Legislature.

CHARLES COSTER, BUTT-INSKY.
The Republican county committee will meet next Wednesday night, when it is said that a number of contests of club elections will come up—or a number of protests, rather. And there will be doings. For instance, maybe Charlie Coster will be asked what he means by butting in and daring to get a majority of the enrolled voters of his precinct to vote for him for president of the club when he had been read out of the party with all due solemnity a year ago. What have the voters in the precinct got to do with it, anyhow, when a committee solemnly pronounces a district leader anathema? Charlie Coster will see, if he don't watch out. Brother Jim Quinn will catch him. The Lord hates a butt-insky.

There has been some speculation as to whether Senator Achi will lay his protest against Sam Johnson before the county committee. The wicked Senator has a protest. He has been voicing it all up and down Fort street, from Nolte's to Beretania street, for a week or more, and it is said he has likewise been dwelling upon it at certain meetings he has been having in a quiet way all over town.

The protest is to the effect that Sam manipulated Kakaako in a most cruel way at the club elections. Maybe he did, too, but Achi was not the only sufferer.

JOHN HUGHES GIVES PLATFORM

(Continued from page 1.)
not be got unless they are paid a living wage.

I am in favor of aiding that most deserving of private institutions, the Leahi Home.

Our present taxes are ample to meet all our needs if economically administered, but in many ways they are iniquitous and oppressive.

The tax laws should be reconstructed.

In the carrying out of public works and awarding of contracts, past and recent events show how imperative it is that some laws be enacted to bring about reform.

I favor a sound primary law, or any law that will purify politics and eliminate the perpetual-motion-office-hunting-political-machine.

I favor high license and local option, or any law that will tend to improve the social condition of our people, or strengthen the home life, which in the last analysis is the unit of our country's strength and on which our progress and prosperity depend.

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